THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI): (a) and (b) Due to the combined effect of wide spread rural poverty social prejudices and inequalities against women and their low entitlements, girls in the rural areas suffer deprivation including neglect of their education.

(c) The Government realises that empowerment of women and main streaming them in the National Development will neutralise the cumulative socio-economic and educational deprivation faced by them including the girls in the rural areas. Towards, this, in addition to enabling constitutional provisions, a number of legislative measures, enunciation of women-specific and women-related policies and various schemes|programmes cutting across several Ministries/Departments are being implemented.

The Government is also implementing the National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade of the Girl Child 1991—2000 AD. The Plan of Action focusses on the 3 major goals of Survival, Protection and Development of the Girl Child in India while emphasising the needs of Girl Children belonging to Special and Vulnerable Groups and Adolescent Girls. The National Plan of Action, inter-alia, has the major goals of universal access to basic education, at least 80 per cent coverage in primary education, reduction of adult-illiteracy to half, diversified secondary educaiton for girls etc.

For the education of girls, various schemes like increasing the enrolment of girls, reduction of direct cost of education, recruitment of female teachers, creating linkages between schools and Early Childhood Care and Education, expanding non-formal education programmes for girls, porgrammes of awareness generation, revision of school text book to remove gender bias etc. are being implemented.

The Government has also started the implementation of a Special Adolescent Girls Scheme through the ICDS system for looking after the Health, Education, Literacy and Nutrition needs of school drop out Adoloscent Girls in the age group of 11—18 years. When fully operationalised the scheme will benefit 4.5 lakh girls.

Respect of Traditions and Values in School Curricula

2149. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ministry have studied the posibility of drawing up curricula for schools to inculcate respect for our traditions and values;

(b) whether such subjects will be initiated in the Central Schools; and

(c) what measures and educational aids has been compiled to meet the challenge of Foreign TV which is emphasising different values and a new style of life on our youngsters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education envisages a national system of education based on a National Curricular Framework containing a common core cutting across different subject areas. These components aim at promoting values such as History of Freedom Struggle, India,s common cultural heritage, egalitarianism, democracy and secularism, equality of the sexes, protection of environment, removal of soial barriers, observance of small family norms and inculcation of scientific temper. On the basis of guidelines given in the Framework, NCERT revised the entire school syllabi and brought out revised textbooks for classes I to XII integrating the core components thereon. The NCERT syllabi form the basis of prescription of scheme of studies in CBSE—affiliated schools including Central Schools where NCERT textbooks have been adopted.

(c) The Government have adopted the approach of integrating elements of values in the existing subjects and co-curricular activities. As regards the meeting of the challenge of foreign TV network, it is a wider issue related to media policy. The NCERT has been producing audio-visual educational programmes aimed at promoting value orientation;

Increase in Exploitation of Women and Children

2150. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of exploitation of women and children particularly the female children are on the increase;

(b) if so, what are the details of action plan initiated to combat this menace;

(c) whether Government have launched any new scheme for the welfare of women and children;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned for this scheme; and

(e) by when this scheme is scheduled to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHMENT): (a) No statistical data is available to ascertain the trend in cases of exploitation of women and children particularly the female children.

(b) In order to combat this problem, Government has taken steps in the area of legislation, legal literacy, counselling and enforcement of various laws relating to women and children. The National Commission for Women has been set up with the main task to study and monitor all matters relating to the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women to review the exisingg legislation and sugest amendments A scheme "Welfare of Street Children" has been launched during 1993-94 under which children who are victims of abuse and exploitation are given priority.

(c) to (e) The Government of India has launched the undermentioned new schemes for the welfare of women and children;

(i) *Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)*:

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh has been set up as a registered society under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 in March, 1993 for providing credit through the inter-mediation of NGOs and other regional organisations with flexible system suited to local conditions to the women borrowers mainly in the unorganised sector. A Corpus Fund of Rs. 31 crores has been sanctioned to the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh as grant-in-aid dur-1992-93.

(ii) *Mahila Samriddhi Yojana* (MSY):

Under the Mahila Samriddhi Yojana which is a Central Sector Plan scheme, every rural adult women is encouraged to have an MSY account of her own in the local post office. She can deposit in instalments in multiplies of Rs. four upto a maximum of Rs. 300 in a year. Deposits with a lock-in period of 12 months shall earn her interests at the rate of 25 per cent subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 in a year. Two withdrawals of a minimum of Rs. twenty are allowed in a year. An allocation of Rs. 10.50 crores has been approved in the revised estimates for 1993-94 for MSY. The scheme has been launched on 2 October, 1993 through the network of post offices in rural areas. Upto 30.11.1993, 1,86,094 MSY accounts with total deposits of Re. 2,04,78.195 were opened.

(iii) *Welfare of Street Children*:

This scheme has been launched during the current Financial Year. Under this scheme, priority target group from amongst street children are those who are victims of abuse and exploitation. Special attention is given to girls. The